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Hammer Maintenance Operations

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FOB Sharana, Afghanistan – In the austere conditions of many Company Outposts (COP) and Forward Operating Bases (FOB) in Afghanistan, Task Force Hammer's maintenance operations are enabling the continuous high operational tempo of the construction season.



A Company equipment working long hours at FOB Shank

In some locations, like FOBs Shank and Wolverine, Hammer Soldiers are working around the clock on high-priority expansion projects. Because both of these projects include substantial cutting and filling, the maintenance crews supporting them must also be available at any hour. The keys to success have been the forward positioning of maintenance slice elements, the pushing of parts from several SSAs in Afghanistan, and the high caliber of TF Hammer's maintenance Soldiers.

Careful allocation of maintenance personnel is essential to maximize the effect. Balancing the receiving and installing of parts, scheduled services, and repairs of deadlined equipment is a challenge in itself, but it compounds in an austere environment with limited access to repair parts.

Having personnel at the SSA to receive and push parts is essential. When new faults are discovered, these Soldiers can conduct walk-throughs to receive critical parts that would normally take days to arrive. With missions spread over 700 kilometers of Afghanistan, TF Hammer units are utilizing the SSAs at Bagram Airfield (BAF), Kandahar Airfield (KAF) and Fenty / Jalalabad Airfield (JAF) to maximize the flow of repair parts where needed. Additionally, Headquarters and Support Company (HSC) is currently providing direct support maintenance slices supporting A Company and Equipment Platoon, HSC, at FOB Shank and supporting 68th Combat Support Equipment at FOB Wolverine. These elements are necessary to minimize equipment downtime for DS-level job orders



PFC Schreiber repairs a D7 Dozer

Utilization of additional SSAs across Afghanistan has been critical to Task Force Hammer's success. Due to C Company's location at Fenty, they have habitually received support from



HSC's SPC Colvin repairs a fifth-wheel assembly

to CPT Martin Ramos, HSC Commander, "They executed major repairs on 68th CSE's fleet of haul assets in order to ensure 68th could move all of their construction equipment in preparation of a major FOB expansion in RC-South." SPC Brandon Colvin, at left, can be seen repairing the fifth-wheel assembly of a 68th CSE M916. His efforts and those of other HSC Soldiers enabled the successful movement of 68th CSE. This example of selfless service is typical of the mechanics across TF Hammer.

Fenty/JAF. However, due to long-term projects in Regional Command (RC) – South, both B Company and 68th CSE relocated their accounts from BAF to KAF to improve the flow of repair parts. This has cut the transportation times substantially for incoming parts.

Task Force Hammer mechanics are the basis of the strong maintenance program. They are accustomed to working long hours to ensure the success of the mission. Routinely, they focus on the critical deadlines and mission essential equipment to minimize project delays, for example. HSC mechanics recently massed their efforts with 68th CSE to prepare for an upcoming mission. According

Task Force Hammer's construction successes have only been possible with the outstanding maintenance support within the battalion. Careful planning and allocating of resources have established the conditions, but the critical piece is the immense determination and expertise of the Hammer Soldiers and mechanics.